Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-11 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 /137 W

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R 051605Z JAN 78 FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1818 INFO AMEMBASSY BONN AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY VIENNA

CONFIDENTIAL THE HAGUE 59

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, PARM, TECH, NL

SUBJECT: ALMELO ENLARGEMENT AND URENCO FUEL SUPPLY TO BRAZIL

REF: THE HAGUE 0038

1. AT THE END OF A CONVERSATION WITH DCM ON OTHER MATTERS, MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL RUTTEN MENTIONED THE ALMELO ENLARGEMENT ISSUE IN A WAY SUGGESTING THAT SOME LOOSE ENDS MAY STILL REMAIN. IN PARTICULAR, THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME QUESTION WHETHER GERMANS ARE AS YET ON BOARD. RUTTEN ALSO HINTED AT POSSIBILITY THAT GOVERNMENT PARTIES IN PARLIAMENT MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY BEHIND PROSPECTIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH BRAZIL. APPARENTLY, IN CONTRAST TO FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL'S INSISTENCE ON BRAZILIAN ACCEPTANCE OF STRICT SAFEGUARDS FOR INTERNATIONAL STORAGE OF PLUTONIUM PENDING ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL REGIME, POSITION OF NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT CONTEMPLATES ONLY A REQUEST BY CONSORTIUM PARTNERS FOR BRAZIL NOW TO AGREE "IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PRINCIPLE" TO SUCH ARRANGEMENTS.

2. COMMENT: IN RESPONSES TO PRESS QUESTIONS JAN 4, WE NOTICED CONSIDERABLE TO AND FRO-ING ON THE PART OF THE MFA SPOKESMAN. IT IS BEGINNING TO LOOK AS IF PRIME MINISTER VAN AGT MAY HAVE JUMPED THE GUN NOT ONLY IN ASSUMING AGREEMENT OF THE BRITISH AND GERMANS TO THE DUTCH PROPOSALS FOR HANDLING BRAZIL

BUT ALSO IN PREEMPTING PARLIAMENT WHICH HAD ALWAYS ASSUMED IT WOULD HAVE A SAY PRIOR TO FINAL DECISION. WHEN IT DEBATES THE ISSUE, PARLIAMENT MAY WELL VENT ITS DISPLEASURE AT HAVING BEEN IN EFFECT LOCKED OUT OF A POLICY DECISION IN WHICH THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT HAD PROMISED IT A ROLE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: NUCLEAR FUELS Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 05 jan 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978THEHA00059
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A **Expiration:** Film Number: D780009-1039 Format: TEL

From: THE HAGUE USIAEA Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780194/aaaadbqd.tel

Line Count: 68 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 4aa101e6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EB

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 THE HAGUE 38

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 25 may 2005 Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3821379 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

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To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4aa101e6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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